(b) to (d) Due to the Government's strong and purposive international engagement, the international community, including the United states, recognises Pakistan's links with cross-border terrorism in India and the responsibility and the commitment of the Government of Pakistan to put an end to it. It is for the Government of the United States to examine whether Pakistan meets the criteria prescribed by the U.S. domestic law for designating a country as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Regrouping of Taliban in Afghanistan

2415. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any information about the regrouping of Taliban in Afghanistan;

(b) whether they are getting foreign aids;

(c) if so, the known sources of aid to Taliban;

(d) whether the available information has been passed on to the Governments of USA and UK; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (e)There have been reports of theTaliban and Al-Qaida cadres re-grouping along the eastern and southeastern parts of Afghanistan-Pakistan border, and receiving support from across the border.

Information and assessment in this regard, and its impact on return of peace in Afghanistan, as well as regional peace and stability are regularly shared in interactions with other interested countries.

British Foreign Secretary's visit to India and Pakistan

2416. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the British Foreign Secretary visited Pakistan after his talks with the Indian leaders and returned to India with some feed back;

(b) if so, whether any headway has been made to resolve border tension; and

(c) how far Indian foreign diplomacy has succeeded in taming Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINiSTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Following his visit to India on 19th July, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw visited Pakistan on 20th July. He returned to Delhi on the evening of 20th July and met with EAM. Mr. Straw shared with EAM his assessment of his meeting with the Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Inam-ul-Haq.

(b) and (c) Following India's diplomatic efforts, the international community has widely acknowledged Pakistan's involvement with cross border infiltration and terrorism.There has been a consistent demand that Pakistan put a permanent stop to cross-border infiltration and terrorism and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism. There is also acknowledgement that these steps against terrorism would be necessary before deescalation and dialogue can be envisaged. India will continue in its diplomatic efforts to ensure that this sequence continues to be accepted as the framework for resolving India-Pakistan tensions.

Extradition of Prabhakaran

2417. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his recent visit to Sri Lanka on the eve of the current session of Parliament, he had taken up with Sri Lanka the question of extradition of V. Prabhakaran in connection with the assassination of Late Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister of India; and

(b) if so, the Sri Lankan Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the visit of Minister of External Affairs to Sri Lanka on July 11-12, 2002. A formal request for the extradition of Shri V. Prabhakaran, leader of the LTTE was made to the Government of Sri Lanka in June 1995. The issue is discussed with the Government of Sri Lanka from time to time and they have been made fully aware of our